



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Long Ashton Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1920.



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Medical Officers' Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

:: To the Chairman and Members ::
OF THE
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to place before you the Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the District during the year.

The provision of a proper water supply at Providence, Long Ashton, various sewage disposal problems at Yatton, and Housing accommodation are the most important matters, affecting the health of the District, that have occupied attention this year.

The Physical Features and General Character of the District were fully dealt with in last year's Report, and as there is no change of importance to record, it is unnecessary to repeat these details here.

STATISTICS.

Area of District, 47,880 acres.

Population (Census 1911), 16,200.

Population (estimated for 1920), 16,361.

Inhabited houses (Census 1911), 3,739.

Inhabited houses (estimated 1920), 3,869.

Death rate (per 1,000 of population)	13.14
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Birth rate (per 1,000 of population)	22.37
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Tuberculosis Death rate (per 1,000 of population)	97
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Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	51.91
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The Census to be taken in 1921 will provide more exact figures as regards population and houses.

DEATHS.

Number of deaths registered in the district, 202.

In Long Ashton sub-district (including Workhouse)	3
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In St. George sub-district	56
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In Yatton sub-district	57
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Number of deaths (after correction for inward and outward transfers), 215.

Death rate, 13.14.

Of the total deaths, 80 were of persons over 70 years of age, 7 being 90 and over, the oldest being 95.

Causes of death:—

Measles, 2; Scarlet Fever, 1; Cerebro Spinal Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 1; Whooping Cough, 1; Influenza, 6; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 14; Tubercular Meningitis, 2; Cancer (malignant disease), 23; Rheumatic Fever, 1; Meningitis (not tubercular), 2; Organic Heart Disease, 35; Bronchitis, 15; Pneumonia (all forms), 8; other respiratory diseases, 4; Diarrhoea (under 2 years), 2; Appendicitis, 1; Cirrhosis of Liver, 1; Nephritis and Bright's Disease, 5; Congenital Debility, 6; Violence (apart from suicide), 11; Suicide, 2; other defined diseases, 70; causes ill defined or unknown, 2.

BIRTHS.

Number of Births registered in the district, 366.

In Long Ashton sub-district	...	...	...	...	...	157
In St. George sub-district	...	...	...	...	...	112
In Yatton sub-district	...	...	...	...	...	97

Birth rate, 22.37.

This is the largest number of births, and the highest birth rate since 1911. In that year the number was exactly the same, but the birth rate slightly higher.

Notification of Births is now made direct to the County Medical Officer of Health.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Number of deaths of Infants under one year of age, 19.

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births), 51.91.

This is the lowest rate recorded in the district as far as I can discover from old Reports, the previous lowest being 53.3 in 1913.

8 of these deaths were due to premature birth and congenital defects; 1 to Influenza; 1 to Whooping Cough; 2 to Acute Infective Gastroenteritis; 1 to Asphyxia from overlaying; 1 to Acute Dermatitis; and 4 to Bronchitis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY:—

The main features of the supply are unaltered. Full details were given in the Reports for 1912 and 1914.

On the whole, considering its large area and scattered character, the district is fairly well supplied with water, a large portion having the Bristol, Clevedon, or Portishead Companies water laid on, and Yatton has its own piped service to practically all the houses except the Hamlet of Hewish. Some districts, however, are still supplied only by shallow wells, or rainwater, or are at a considerable distance from a better supply. Further extensions of the public supplies could with advantage be made to the lower part of Nailsea, Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Weston Road (North Weston), and Martcombe (Easton-in-Gordano).

Long Ashton.—An extension of the Bristol Companies supply is being made to Providence, where the old supply was found to be

badly polluted last year. Owing to the fact that most of the houses here are too high for the water to reach them under ordinary pressure, it is necessary to install a pumping plant. As a temporary measure a tap was placed at the highest point to which the water main had been taken, and the inhabitants have to fetch their water from this tap.

All arrangements have now been completed for carrying the main to the top of the hill, where a stand pipe is to be fixed within easy reach of most of the houses.

It would have been better to have carried the supply to the houses, so that automatic flushes could have been fitted to w.c.'s and the sewers flushed. The scheme has received the Ministry of Health's sanction, and the work of laying the main and installing the pumping plant is to be commenced very soon.

Tickenham.—The supply of this parish will need attention shortly. Five houses near the Clevedon boundary have the Clevedon Company's water. Middletown is supplied by wells, the water of which is unfit for consumption, according to reports on analysis of samples. 25 houses are provided for by the Tickenham Mill Supply, a piped service which belonged to the Ashton Court estate, this part of which has now been sold. The supply has been handed over to a Committee. This supply could be extended to the part of the parish farthest from Clevedon, but it would be a costly matter to supply the few scattered cottages at Court Hill with piped services. The cost of providing the Clevedon Company's water would also be very great. The whole question will require careful consideration. As a preliminary step, samples of the mill supply and various wells have been analysed.

North Weston.—At Weston Road about 40 houses are supplied only by shallow wells, which are badly protected from pollution, and the water is therefore generally unfit for consumption.

Weston-in-Gordano.—Samples of water were taken from the village pump, and from a supply which it was proposed to utilize for the new houses the Council wish to build in this parish. Both were found to be unsatisfactory.

Yatton.—One cottage and a block of three houses were supplied by two wells, the water of which proved on analysis to be unfit for consumption. As the result of action taken, the wells were closed and the Yatton pipeil service laid on to the houses.

Martcombe (Easton-in-Gordano).—This hamlet has only rain water at many of the houses. A stream at the bottom of a steep hill some hundreds of yards from the houses is the only other water available, and this is polluted. An extension of the Portishead Company's supply to these houses is desirable.

Pill.—There are still over 50 houses in this village that have not been connected to the Company's supply, although notices have been sent to all owners. It will be necessary to take strong action to compel owners to do the necessary work.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of small streams occurs at Bishopsworth, Backwell, Dundry, Easton-in-Gordano, Winsford, Wraxall, and Yatton. Rhines at Yatton are badly polluted as mentioned in next section.

A serious case of pollution of a small stream is that caused by the effluent from Court de Wycke Tannery at Claverham, Yatton. The filters installed have proved insufficient to render the effluent satisfactory. The owner has been ordered to abate the nuisance, but so far there is no improvement, and it will probably be necessary in the near future for the Council to take stronger measures to compel him to improve this effluent. I have to thank Dr. Savage, County Medical Officer of Health, for his advice and assistance in this matter.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

These are as described in last year's Report, no new sewers having been laid, except a length of sewer to the new Council houses at Long Ashton.

There have been complaints of several nuisances at Yatton:

1. From cesspools at Horscastle Terrace and Elborough Street.
2. A Rhine commencing below Horscastle Terrace receives cesspool overflows and sink waste, etc., from several cottages, and is in a most insanitary state.
3. A ditch behind Horscastle Chapel is badly polluted by cesspool overflow.
4. Overflow from cesspools of cottages enters a drain which discharges into a ditch near the Wiltshire Farmer's Milk Depôt, and from this ditch flows into and pollutes a neighbouring Rhine. The waste whey from the Milk Depôt also discharged into this ditch, but this has now ceased.
5. What is known as the Yatton Sewer discharges unpurified into a Rhine near the Vicarage Grounds.

I have made inspections of these nuisances, and samples of effluents have been examined, and my reports and suggestions for dealing with these questions are under consideration by the Council.

A sewage scheme for the whole Parish, owing to the flat and low lying character of the district, would be a very costly and difficult undertaking, and it is hoped that, by carrying out the improvements recommended, such a scheme will be rendered unnecessary.

The advisability of purchasing a Vacuum Cesspool Emptier for this Parish is also under consideration.

Long Ashton.—The effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works was found in November to be unsatisfactory on examination. This matter is now being dealt with.

Pill.—No further blockage of the Irene Terrace drain has occurred. Efforts have been made to induce the owners to alter this drain, but so far unsuccessfully.

Leigh Woods.—The cesspools at Towerhurst and Oaklands, which were undergoing alterations last year, are now satisfactory. The rain water and bath waste have been diverted from the cesspools.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It is not possible to give reliable figures as to the number of privies, earth, or water closets until the house inspection of the district is completed. There are many privies in the more rural parts and some still in parishes where a piped water service is available.

Earth closets are not in favour, except on the larger estates.

Many water closets are hand flushed, but continuous efforts are being made to get automatic flushes installed, with some success, but there is much room for improvement still. More use should be made, in the future, of the Council's powers to enforce this desirable change.

SCAVENGING.

Collections of house refuse are made at Pill Special Drainage District, and at Yatton. It is desirable that other large parishes should adopt a similar system, many houses having insufficient gardens to dispose of their refuse satisfactorily, with the result that unsightly and insanitary heaps of refuse are to be seen in hedgerows and road margins in many parts of the district.

Pill.—Collection is made twice weekly by a contractor.

No improvement has been made in the method of collection. Leaky wooden boxes and buckets are extensively used as receptacles. The contractor's cart is too small and uncovered. Proper covered bins and a large covered cart should be insisted upon.

The old "dump" at the end of Monmouth Road and its successor at the "Salts" are no longer used, and the new one is in a more satisfactory position. No complaints have so far been received as to this one.

Since the Special Drainage District was created, many houses have been built just outside it. These do not share in the refuse collections, and it is very desirable that some voluntary arrangement should be made for collecting the refuse from them.

Yatton.—Collection is made twice weekly, and there have been no complaints, but the dust bins used are much the same as at Pill, and the cart used, though larger, is uncovered.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

A tabulated statement of the number of premises visited, defects found, and action taken is appended. The Inspector of

Nuisances Report, attached, deals with details of sanitary inspection and various other details are to be found in the appropriate sections of this report.

There are no common lodging houses or cellar dwellings, and only one offensive trade in the district. This latter (a tannery) is referred to in the "Rivers and Streams" Section.

Factories and workshops are regularly inspected. Details are appended.

SCHOOLS.

There are 24 in the district. With the exception of Abbot's Leigh, which was reported in 1914 to be unsatisfactory, there is little to complain of, though there is room for improvement in some cases. It is to be hoped the Education Authority will be able to deal with Abbot's Leigh School soon. Exclusion of children suffering from Infectious Diseases and of the other children in infected houses, has been carried out in conjunction with the Chief School Medical Officer.

Tickenham School was sprayed owing to Scarlet Fever, and Wraxall Schools owing to Measles outbreaks.

The following Schools were closed for periods varying from two to thirty-one days, owing to infectious diseases:—

Backwell, Easton-in-Gordano, Long Ashton, Nailsea (Christ Church), Nailsea (Parochial), Weston-in-Gordano, and Wraxall owing to Measles.

Backwell, owing to Chicken Pox.

Barrow Gurney, Weston-in-Gordano, Yatton (undenominational), and Yatton (Church of England), owing to Mumps.

Portbury, owing to Whooping Cough.

All were closed by the Chief School Medical Officer, except Wraxall, which was closed by this Council's authority.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY:—

No complaints have been received either as to quality or sufficiency of supply, and it has been unnecessary to take any action under the various Acts as to tuberculous milk, etc.

The sanitary condition of some cowyards might be improved, but on the whole the cowyards in this district are well kept, and cowkeepers and retailers are careful as to cleanliness of milking and milk tins.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1919. This is dealt with by the County Authority. Cases where a free supply, or at part cost is desired, are brought to the notice of the County M.O.H.

MEAT.

The inspection of meat at times of slaughter is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Slaughter Houses.—There are now 10 in this district, an increase of 1. This is at Bishopsworth, and is an old one, disused

for some years, but recently thoroughly repaired and good concrete floor laid. It unfortunately adjoins the dwelling house.

All slaughter houses are regularly inspected, and are in a satisfactory condition.

Tabular return of slaughter houses:—

	in 1914	in January, 1920	in December, 1920
Registered ..	3	3	4
Licensed ..	nil	nil	nil

Bye-laws as to slaughter houses only apply to 4 parishes, viz.: Bishopsworth, Easton-in-Gordano, Long Ashton, and North Weston.

They should be made applicable to the whole district, as six slaughter houses are in parishes where there are no bye-laws for them.

No carcases were condemned this year for tuberculosis, but one case was reported to be, but on examination found not to be tuberculous. Two carcases of frozen mutton were condemned as unfit for food.

OTHER FOODS.

No complaints have been received as to other unsound foods.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported.

Bakehouses.—These number 21, and with the exception of one at Pill, all are satisfactory as to sanitary arrangements and surroundings.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications:—

Scarlet Fever, 31.

Diphtheria, 8.

Erysipelas, 2.

Enteric Fever, 1 (this case was Paratyphoid).

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1.

Cerebro-spinal Fever, 1.

Encephalitis Lethargica, 1.

Malaria, 1.

Pneumonia (Influenza), 9.

Pneumonia (other forms), 10.

A table showing the distribution of these cases in the district is appended.

Numerous changes have been made in recent years as regards the diseases compulsorily notifiable. Several diseases were added to the list last year, and this year Measles and German Measles are no longer notifiable. Therefore a comparison of total notifications with those of previous years cannot be made, but taking the diseases that were notifiable before 1914, there are this year 41 compared with 39 in 1919, 74 in 1918, 35 in 1917, 65 in 1916, 108 in 1915, and 98 in 1914.

There have been no serious epidemics in any part of the district, and no case of Small Pox or other notifiable diseases that are not included in the above list. One case of Diphtheria was removed to the Bristol Isolation Hospital at Ham Green. The cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, and Cerebro Spinal Fever were treated at the Bristol General Hospital and the Enteric Fever case at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Outbreaks of non-notifiable infectious diseases have been more numerous than last year, necessitating the closure of schools, as mentioned in "Schools" section. All cases of children away from school, owing to these diseases, are notified by the Head Teachers of Schools. This provides valuable information as to the prevalence of diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough, etc., and enables the Medical Officer of Health to take steps necessary to check their spread.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 1; Cerebro Spinal Fever, 1.

Deaths from Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Measles, 2; Whooping Cough, 1.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by this Authority in cases where the medical man in attendance considers the patient is unable to pay for it.

Bacteriological aids to the diagnosis of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, etc., are provided at the County Laboratory, Weston-super-Mare, and are freely made use of by medical practitioners of this district.

Disinfection of rooms is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances in all cases of notifiable diseases, and in non-notifiable ones when requested to do so. Disinfectants are supplied free of charge in the majority of cases.

In cases of Encephalitis Lethargica and Cerebro Spinal Fever, nasal sprays are lent for use of contacts, who are kept under observation.

INFLUENZA.

There are 9 notifications of Influenza Pneumonia.

Deaths from Influenza.—6 compared with 16 last year.

These are the only figures bearing on the prevalence of Influenza, but there was undoubtedly a good deal of it throughout the district during the first quarter of the year, though nothing approaching the number of cases of the previous two years, and the type was much less severe. It has not been necessary to close any schools this year owing to its prevalence.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.—Pulmonary, 36; other forms, 6; total, 42.

There were 48 last year.

Cases admitted to Sanatoria., 9.

Cases discharged from Sanatoria., 10.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Pulmonary, 14; Tubercular Meningitis, 2; total, 16.

Tuberculosis death rate.—.97 (per 1,000 of population).

The arrangement for dealing with this disease, such as Sanatoria, Dispensaries, visiting of homes of cases, etc., are under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Health visitors are sent to inspect the homes of all cases notified and advise as to sanitary precautions and nursing and notify to me all defects and insanitary conditions of the houses. As far as possible all members of the household, from which a case has been notified, are medically examined, generally at the nearest Dispensary, which for this district is at 10, Redcliffe Parade, Bristol.

Disinfection after death or removal to sanatoria is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances of this district.

The number of notifications varies little from year to year, and no great reduction can be expected until there is a great improvement in housing accommodation. Many advanced cases still have to be treated at homes which possess no proper facilities for isolation. Even a separate bed is hardly possible in some cases, and it is difficult often to make people realize the necessity for proper care of sputum, etc. There appears to be still need for more sanatorium accommodation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Treatment centres for this district are provided at the Bristol General Hospital and Royal Infirmary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are three centres in this district, viz., Long Ashton, Pill, and Wraxall. All worked on voluntary lines, and are all well attended and much appreciated. Lectures are given at these "clinics" on all matters pertaining to the feeding of infants, sanitation, clothing, etc. Classes of instruction in cookery, needle-work, etc., are held, the babies are weighed and records kept of progress (or otherwise), and a medical man attends to give advice to mothers, both as to their own health and that of their babies. All are doing excellent work, and the voluntary helpers deserve the best thanks of the community for their services. It is to be desired that other parishes should imitate the example of these three.

No case of puerperal fever has been notified this year, and only one of ophthalmia neonatorum. This case recovered without any permanent injury to sight.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

(1) *Staff.*—Consists of Medical Officer of Health and one Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Building Surveyor and Housing Inspector. Every year the work increases, and it is becoming more and more difficult for the Inspector of

Nuisances to properly perform his many duties in so extensive and hilly a district with only a cycle to use. The train service is often inconvenient, and involves considerable waste of time. A motor cycle would be of great assistance to him.

(2) *Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.*—A corrugated iron building situated in the grounds of the Workhouse. It consists of one block of two wards with a common kitchen and nurses' room. There are 7 beds in each ward. In case of urgency 2 more beds could be accommodated. Only one disease can be dealt with at any one time, allowing for separate wards for males and females. The situation is by no means an ideal one, the hospital being surrounded with cultivated land on to which the sewage from the Workhouse is pumped. The building is in fair condition, but needs some repairs and renewals. There is no special provision for Small Pox other than this hospital.

The hospital has not been opened this year owing to the small amount of infectious disease in the district.

This district is more fortunate than many rural ones in having an arrangement with the Bristol Health Authority to take cases into their Isolation Hospital if the accommodation is not required for their own. This privilege cannot, however, be always relied upon, and towards the end of this year, owing to an extensive outbreak of Scarlet Fever in Bristol, on several occasions cases had to be refused from this district. This emphasizes the importance of making better provision of our own, and it would be a great advantage if some arrangement could be made with the adjoining Urban Districts of Clevedon and Portishead, and perhaps rural ones as well, to maintain a combined hospital which would be always available for cases of infectious disease from all these districts. Preliminary enquiries on this subject are being made.

There is no steam disinfecter, and one is much needed to deal with bedding and clothing from infected houses.

(3). Local Acts, Special Local Orders or General Adoptive Acts in force:—

These were given in last year's report, and no additions have been made this year.

Many of the bye-laws and regulations apply to certain parishes only. It would be helpful if they were made applicable to the whole district. Bye-laws for houses let in lodgings should be made, and it would be a great advantage if sections applicable to rural districts of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act, 1890), the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, and the Prevention of Diseases Act, 1890, were adopted.

(4) Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis, etc.:-

Examinations of samples of water and sewage and bacteriological work for the diagnosis of diseases are carried out at the County Laboratory, Weston-super-Mare. The facilities provided are freely made use of. In cases of urgency the University of Bristol Laboratory is occasionally made use of.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions in the district:—

(1) Very little change has taken place as regards the number of houses and their condition. New ones built in recent years do not keep pace with those becoming unfit for habitation. It is difficult to keep an accurate record of new houses built, owing to the building bye-laws not being applicable to the whole district. There are many houses still occupied, that are really unfit, but which cannot be closed owing to the difficulty of finding other accommodation for the occupants.

New Houses Built or in course of construction during the year:—

Working Class Houses completed. In Course of Erection.

Abbot's Leigh, 2.	Backwell, 1.
Backwell, 5.	Barrow Gurney, 2.
Bishopsworth, 4. .	Dundry, 2.
Easton-in-Gordano, 2.	Nailsea, 5.
Nailsea, 2.	Tickenham, 1.
Walton-in-Gordano, 1.	Walton-in-Gordano, 4.
	Wraxall, 1.
	Yatton, 4.

Other Class Houses completed. In Course of Erection.

Abbot's Leigh, 1.	Abbot's Leigh, 1.
Backwell, 2.	Backwell, 2.
Bishopsworth, 3.	Dundry, 1.
Long Ashton, 3.	Long Ashton, 3.
Nailsea, 2.	Tickenham, 1.
North Weston, 4.	Wraxall, 2.
Walton-in-Gordano, 1.	Walton-in-Gordano, 3.

These are all privately built, the Council's Housing Scheme is referred to later. Some of these houses are wooden bungalows.

Two Parish Halls have also been built, both wooden structures. One at St. George (Easton-in-Gordano) and one at Claverham (Yatton).

(2) (a) Extent of shortage (or excess) of houses:—

There is undoubtedly a shortage of houses, the extent, however, is difficult to accurately determine, owing to various reasons, but as stated in last year's Report 250

new houses would relieve the situation very considerably. More houses are being built privately than for several years previously, stimulated doubtless by the Government subsidies.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to deal with shortage:

This Council is proceeding with its scheme to erect 170 houses in 17 parishes. 28 sites have been selected and plans submitted and approved by the Ministry of Health. Contracts have been made and approved, and loans sanctioned for the following parishes:—Abbot's Leigh, Backwell, Bishopsworth, Clapton-in-Gordano, Dundry, Easton-in-Gordano, Flax Bourton, Kenn, Kingston Seymour, Long Ashton, Nailsea, North Weston, Portbury, Winford, and Yatton. In 15 cases the land has been bought and paid for. In two cases the Council have been obliged to make orders for compulsory purchase. In 4 instances it has been necessary, for various reasons, to change the site originally chosen, but others have been selected and approved. Sites for Tickenham, Weston-in-Gordano, and Horscastle (Yatton) are still in course of negotiation. Complete plans for 108 houses on 13 sites have been prepared, submitted, and approved by the Ministry of Health. The remainder are either waiting approval or are in course of preparation.

20 houses are in course of erection at Long Ashton.

Tenders for houses at Abbot's Leigh, Portbury, and Pill have been received, but have been regarded as too high by the Ministry of Health.

(3) No important changes of population have occurred during the year or are anticipated in the near future.

II.—Overcrowding.

(1) *Extent.*—It is most marked in parishes near Bristol, particularly Pill (Easton-in-Gordano), Long Ashton, and Bishopsworth, but to a less extent also in other parishes.

(2) *Causes.*—Shortage of house accommodation in Bristol is the chief cause, many earning their livelihood in that city being driven to the neighbouring villages to find houses or lodgings; some, of course, also because they prefer to live in the country. Pill, from its proximity to Avonmouth and other parts of Bristol, Long Ashton, and Bishopsworth are more especially affected by this cause, but places more distant such as Nailsea, Backwell, and Yatton are also affected by it to some extent.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding:—

The Council's housing scheme, previously referred to, is the chief measure. When this has been completed, more stringent action will be possible. At present, the shortage

of houses and the effects of the Rent Restriction Act make it impossible to deal very drastically with any but the worst cases.

(4) Cases dealt with during the year:—

Two. In one case application was made to the Long Ashton Court of Summary Jurisdiction and an order obtained to abate the overcrowding. In the other case the house was structurally altered to provide an extra room. Other cases have been remedied without recourse to anything more than verbal warnings.

III.—Fitness of houses:—

(1) (a) General standard of housing in the district:—

There is a fair number of good working class houses, but but a very large number of a poor type and in a bad state of repair. This applies to nearly every parish, but the worst cases are in Bishopsworth, Pill, Nailsea, and North Weston.

(b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses:—

Dampness and disrepair, leaky roofs, low ceilings, uneven stone or brick floors, no through ventilation, back-to-back houses.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision of owners:—

Undoubtedly many owners do not exercise sufficient supervision of their property. The present high cost of materials and labour render repairs of old property prohibitive. Many houses are owned by persons who have only the rents of a few houses to live upon, and cannot possibly find the money for the necessary repairs, and nearly all owners are postponing repairs as long as possible in the hope of prices becoming lower. Many of the older houses can only be made fit by extensive structural alterations.

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—

(a) The Public Health Acts: nil.

(b) The Housing Acts: 7 have been condemned and two closing orders issued.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness, etc.:—

It has been impossible to follow up the closing orders, owing to the lack of houses for displaced tenants to go to. Many condemned in previous years are still occupied. Many more would be condemned, but it is useless to do so until this Council is in a position to follow up closing orders by acting upon them. The only real remedy for this state of affairs is the building of sufficient new houses. Then, owners of these dilapidated houses would have to put them in a good state of repair to attract tenants. At present,

however insanitary they are, there are always people ready to rent them. Informal notices are constantly being sent to owners to have defects remedied, in some cases with success, but more often they are ignored. When the Council's housing programme is further advanced, it should be possible to take more firm action in these cases.

(4) Conditions, as far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal:—

Information as to these is given in the sections on water supply, etc. It is sufficient to say here that there is room for improvement in all these matters.

IV.—Unhealthy areas:—

None in this district have been considered sufficiently bad to require action under the Housing Act, 1890.

V.—Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.:—

There are none in the district, but bye-laws as to houses let in lodgings would be very useful.

VI.—General and miscellaneous:—

The Inspector of Nuisances Report, attached, contains general information as to work done in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, water supply, and housing, etc.

VII.—The Appendices contain various statistics required by the Ministry of Health.

It has been difficult for me to keep in touch with all details of the work, owing to the fact that I have acted as Medical Officer of Health for only about half the year. Dr. Fuller, having now left the district, could not compile this Report without access to the books, which are required by me for the ensuing year's work, so this duty has devolved upon me.

I must here record my appreciation of the excellent work, under difficult conditions, done by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. E. T. H. Hawkins, and the able and ready assistance he has rendered me in the performance of my duties. His thorough knowledge of sanitary work and of the district is a valuable asset to your Council.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Council for the support and consideration shown to me during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

- (1) Estimated population, 16,361.
- (2) General Death rate, 13.14.
- (3) Death rate from tuberculosis, .97.
- (4) Infantile mortality, 51.91.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes (estimated), 3,869.
- (6) Number of working class dwelling houses (estimated), 2,954.
- (7) Number of new working class houses erected, 12.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—Inspection:—

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 98.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 98.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 7.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 61.

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, 10.

III.—Action under Statutory Powers:—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 7.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—
 - (a) By owners, nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners, nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 1.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—
 - (a) By owners, nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 7.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 2.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling house having been rendered fit, nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement schemes under (a) Part I. or (b) Part II. of the Act of 1890, nil.

- (1) Names of area, nil.
- (2) Acreage, nil.
- (3) Number of working class houses in area, nil.
- (4) Number of working class persons to be displaced, nil.

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, 3.

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer, 1.

The Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Building Surveyor and Housing Inspector for the parishes of Easton-in-Gordano, Long Ashton, Nailsea, North Weston, and Yatton.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis in the Long Ashton Rural District :—

PARISH.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever.	Erysip- elas.	Ophthal- mia Neona- torum.	Cerebro- spinal Fever.	Encephal- itis Lethar- gica.	Malaria.	Lobar Pneu- monia	Influen- zal Pneu- monia	Pulmon- ary Tuber- culosis.	Other forms of Tuber- culosis.	Totals.
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Abbot's Leigh	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Backwell	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Barrow Gurney	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bishopsworth	...	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Brockley	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Clapton-in-Gordano	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dundry	...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Easton-in-Gordano	...	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	35
Flax Bourton	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kem	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kingston Seymour	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Long Ashton	...	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
Nailsea	...	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
North Weston	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Portbury	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tickenham	...	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Walton-in-Gordano	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Weston-in-Gordano	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Winford	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wraxall	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yatton	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Totals	...	31	8	1	2	1	1	1	4	10	9	36	6

LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Inspector of Nuisances' Summary of Inspections handed to Medical Officer of Health, 1920.

Nature of Inspections	No. of Inspections	NOTICES GIVEN.		No. being complied with
		Nuisances found	Informal	
Notifiable Diseases	94	30	30	30
Non-notifiable Diseases	54	..	..	..
Tuberculosis Cases	74	20	20	20
Water Supply, including taking Samples	59	7	7	7
Slaughter-houses	80	2	2	2
Registered Milk-sellers	135	..	..	..
Other Farms	40	..	..	..
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	44	..	..	..
House Inspections	98	..	..	..
,, Re-inspections	102	..	..	..
Factory & Workshop, including Bakehouses	81	..	..	..
Nuisances	500	150	144	149
				1

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1—INSPECTION,

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	13	1	Nil
(including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	68	Nil	Nil
(including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	81	1	Nil

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN ABOVE.

Insufficient Sanitary	Found, 1.
Accommodation	Remedied, 1.
	Referred to H.M. Inspector, 1.
	Number of Prosecutions, Nil.

3—HOME WORK.

Lists sent twice a year, Nil; Prosecutions—Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists, Nil.

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Makers of Hand-made Wallpapers	1
Laundry Work	3
Makers of Wearing Apparel	4
Bakchouses	21
Smithy	3
Carpenters	1
Boot and Shoe Makers	2
Makers of Cattle Medicines	1
Total number of Workshops on Register	36

5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901):—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1
Other	Nil
Underground Bakchouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	Nil

HERBERT NEWSOME,

March 31st, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

The record of my work is read to you every month, but in conformity with the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Order, 1910, sub clause 16, the Inspector of Nuisances has to make an Annual Report to the Council on the work performed by him during the year. I beg, therefore, to place my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1920, before you.

Infectious Diseases.—Visits of inspection and for purposes of supplying disinfectants and spraying or fumigating rooms.

In all cases of infectious disease brought to my notice by the Medical Officer of Health, enquiries have been made and fumigation or spraying carried out. Numerous cases of disinfection of the shelters provided by the County Council for tuberculosis cases, rooms used by cases removed to sanatoria, and also rooms after death from this disease are undertaken as quickly as possible and the Lady Health Visitor duly notified. In every case at the request of medical practitioners of the district any rooms are disinfected. In cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis nasal sprays are loaned for use by "contacts." Numerous visits have been paid during the year in visiting cases of Measles, Mumps, and Chicken Pox, arising from reports from the schools in the district. Wraxall Boys and Girls' School were sprayed in consequence of outbreak of Measles, and Tickenham School in consequence of Scarlet Fever.

Disinfectants are always supplied to infectious cases.

Water Supply.—At Providence, Long Ashton, further samples of water were taken in January and March, but the results proved the water to be unfit for drinking purposes. A water main has been laid about 200 yards up the hill to a point as high as the Bristol Company's supply from this main will reach. A stand pipe is fixed here temporarily until the proposed extensions contemplated by your Council can be carried out. On August 9th R. C. Cox, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., an Inspector from the Ministry of Health, held an enquiry with regard to a loan to carry out this work, and visited the Hamlet of Providence. The loan was sanctioned, and the work will probably soon be put in hand.

A sample of Yatton public supply was examined and found satisfactory.

At Milton Farm a large rain water cistern has been placed to provide a supply in place of polluted well.

Tickenham.—9 samples of water were taken in this parish, 7 of which were unsatisfactory.

The question of a pure supply for this parish will require attention at an early date.

Yatton.—2 samples of well water were taken, both at Clavertonham. The water was pronounced unfit for drinking purposes. The wells are closed, and in consequence 7 houses now have Yatton public supply laid on.

There were 15 samples of water taken for bacteriological examination and one for chemical analysis.

At Pill notices have been served on all owners of houses without sufficient and wholesome supply of water within a reasonable distance. No action has yet been taken to enforce these notices.

Drainage and Sewerage.—A length of new sewer has been laid from Arch Grove to the Council's new State-aided Housing Scheme Cottages at Fenswood, Long Ashton. This was tested and found satisfactory.

Long Ashton sewers have not been stopped during the year. They are regularly flushed.

Two private drains were stopped; these were cleared.

There were no other stoppages in drains or sewers reported.

Walton Park.—At Woodrow a new set of drains have been laid.

Improvements to drainage systems at Towerhurst and The Woodlands, Leigh Woods, Long Ashton Parish, were made during the year.

The most serious nuisance in regard to drains and sewage occurred at Yatton. This is dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health. Two samples of sewage were examined and pronounced most unsatisfactory. This matter is receiving the close attention of the Yatton Parish Council in addition to your Council.

Grange Road, Bishopsworth.—The drainage of the houses in this road has been a constant source of complaint during the year, and is now engaging the attention of the Parish Council with a view to sewerage the road and making it up for taking over as a highway. This will abate this long standing nuisance.

Hillside Terrace, Farleigh, Backwell. A drainage nuisance occurred here in consequence of allowing cesspool to overflow. The nuisance was abated.

In matters connected with drainage numerous minor improvements have been made at many places in the district during the year.

Cheese Factories and Milk Depôts.—In two instances there have been complaints of "whey" refuse from cheese-making running to waste and causing nuisance. These nuisances have been abated.

Court de Wyck Tannery.—Unfortunately the condition of the effluent from this tannery varies considerably, sometimes there is little or no nuisance, at other times the nuisance is unbearable. Action will be taken to compel owner to render the effluent innocuous.

Housing.—Some steps have been taken during the year to improve the existing condition of cottages, but at present with every effort there is very little systematic work done. With regard to unfit houses, with one exception only, they are all occupied. In addition to the 161 houses already on the list as being unfit there is an addition of 6 fresh ones this year, making 167 in all. Acting in accordance with the County Medical Officer of Health's circular on Housing, especially relating to unfit houses, the owners are notified to keep these houses as sound as possible, but they are informed that immediately new houses can be built for occupants of these houses they will be condemned.

One special note I have put in these notices is that should a tenant vacate one of this class of house the same shall not be let again without the express permission of your Council.

In addition to these hopelessly unfit buildings there is a class of houses in this district becoming so defective as to be on the border line of being unfit for habitation. It appears to me that these houses can be dealt with under the Public Health Act as a nuisance. The steps are simple. Section 91, P.H.A. 1875, sub-section 1. "Any premises in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health." Section 94, the same Act: "On the receipt of any information respecting the existence of a nuisance the Local Authority *shall*, if satisfied of the existence of a nuisance, serve a notice on the person by whose act, default, or sufferance the nuisance arises or continues requiring him to abate the same within the time to be specified in the notice, and to execute such works and do such things as may be necessary for that purpose." Failure to carry out the requisitions of the notice can be dealt with by legal proceedings, and the penalties incurred can be put on the offenders whoever the offender may be. I have already recommended this action to you. To "close" a house under the Housing Acts and be compelled through force of circumstances to allow occupants to remain appears to me to be waste of time. If any considerable improvement is to be effected action on these or similar lines will be necessary.

I have also pointed out to your Council that under Section 22 of the 1919 Housing Act they are empowered to lend to owners to repair defective houses and assist them to procure material at a reasonable price.

During the year, however, very great difficulty has arisen in obtaining material for any class of building, the Council are aware of this in regard to their State-aided Housing Scheme.

Repairs to some cottages, however, have been carried out in nearly every parish.

Overcrowding.—Two cases were dealt with, although efforts were taken to deal with many more. The shortage of suitable accommodation makes it very difficult to do much in this respect.

Six statutory notices were served, one case necessitated Court proceedings. This was a case of overcrowding. An order of the magistrates was obtained.

There was a nuisance at a gipsy encampment, reported on the 22nd December. This nuisance was abated at the end of the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. H. HAWKINS (Assoc. R. San. Inst.),

Inspector of Nuisances and Housing Inspector.

Hill View, West Town, near Bristol.

March, 1921.



